

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner provided that the pending claims are directed to more than one patentably distinct invention. Specifically, the claims are directed to the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-15 are drawn to a cleaning apparatus, classified in class 15, subclass 77;
- II. Claims 16-26 are drawn to a cleaning apparatus, classified in class 134, subclass 147; and
- III. Claims 27-35 are drawn to a cleaning method, classified in class 134, subclass 1.

Accordingly, the Applicants were requested under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect the invention to which prosecution on the merits will be restricted. In this regard, the Applicants elect Group I, without traverse, which includes Claims 1-15 drawn to a cleaning apparatus.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

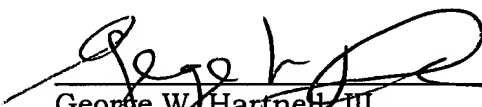
H. Yoshioka, et al.
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If for any reason a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge or credit Deposit Account No.

04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

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